

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 23, 2019

The Honorable James M. Inhofe
Chairman
Senate Armed Services Committee
205 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed
Ranking Member
Senate Armed Services Committee
728 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear Chairman Inhofe and Ranking Member Reed:

As you work to conference the House and Senate passed versions of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2020, we request that the full Air Force request for the construction project for the Intelligence Processing Complex (IPC) at the National Air and Space Intelligence Center (NASIC) contained in the tables in section 4601 of the House version of the bill be included in the final NDAA. If the project receives only partial funding, NASIC will face possible schedule delays and cost overruns.

The full \$182 million project was authorized in FY 2019 and \$61 million was appropriated. The House version of the bill contains \$120.9 million to complete construction, while the Senate version only contained \$74 million. We strongly support including the full \$120.9 million in the final NDAA.

This project is vitally important to ensuring that NASIC is able to effectively carry out its mission. NASIC is the Air Force's intelligence arm and provides customers – lawmakers, other military services, and the Intelligence Community at large – with vital information regarding current and future threats to our nation from the air and space. NASIC headquarters currently occupies World War II-era facilities at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio. These buildings are falling apart and in desperate need of replacement.

NASIC has grown significantly and their spaces have not grown accordingly, resulting in severe overcrowding and adverse working conditions. Some employees are forced to “hot desk” due to limited space and resources – where multiple employees are assigned to a single desk in shifts, inhibiting workflow and productivity. In an effort to improve the harmful effects of hot desking, NASIC has removed most collaborative working spaces in order to accommodate more desks. Because of the classified nature of NASIC's work, individual computer systems are required to have a certain amount of space between classified and unclassified networks. This further restricts their ability to add additional desks.

If full funding is not provided this year, NASIC faces potential negative impacts to the construction completion schedule. This would delay much-needed occupancy and negatively impact the overall project budget. NASIC has an experienced and motivated team working on this project. They have a detailed schedule in place and an aggressive plan to award the final contract for the project by August 2020 ensuring the entire amount of the project is spent in FY 2020. Should the remaining funds be delayed until FY 2021, this schedule will lag, delaying the project completion date and further subjecting NASIC employees to poor work conditions.

Thank you for your hard work for our men and women in uniform. We greatly appreciate the full authorization of the project that came through the FY 2019 NDAA and the \$61 million to get the project started. We urge you to completely fund the remaining \$120.9 million, consistent with the Air Force's request, to ensure that the project remains on schedule, on budget, and can meet urgent mission requirements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rob Portman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Rob Portman
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sherrod Brown". The signature is written in a cursive style, with "Sherrod" and "Brown" clearly legible.

Sherrod Brown
United States Senator